

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 4, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 21-25 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 2, 10, 12, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that the specification of the current application does not describe a selection bar or a part of a selection bar allowing a user to select a location. Specifically, Applicants submit that the mere fact that the specification does not expressly describe one or more selectable locations on a selection bar does not mean that such a recitation fails to comply with the written description requirement.

To be patentable, "claim limitations must be supported in the specification through express, implicit, or inherent disclosure." See MPEP § 2163(I)(B). Moreover, the "fundamental factual inquiry is whether the specification conveys with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that . . . applicant was in possession of the invention now claimed. See, e.g., Vas-Cath, Inc., 935 F.2d at 1563-64, 19 USPQ2d at 1117." *Id.* Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand, after reading the originally filed specification and reviewing the figures, that a user may narrow search results by selecting an area, or location, along a selection bar. That the user selects a location along the selection bar is inherent. For example, the specification provides as follows:

Referring now to Figure 4, the web page includes a user interactive selection bar *on which a user can select the search results to be displayed*. Figure 4 illustrates a first type of search result in which the search results for an entire system database (in this case, the SupportCentral database) are displayed for viewing by a user.

To narrow the search results to be displayed, and referring now to Figure 5, the user simply selects a next type of search result on the selection bar. Of course, the user need not select any one of the possible types of search results in any order. For example, rather than viewing the search results sequentially from most broad to most narrow, an operator can select to view the most narrow search result immediately after viewing the most broad search results. As shown in Figure 5, the user has selected to view the type 2 (vector 1) results, which are the search results based on the searching conducted in the

databases that comprise the user's business community. In comparing the example search results of Figure 4 to the search results in Figure 5, 73 relevant communities and 160 relevant documents were identified in the type 1 results and 30 relevant communities and 41 relevant documents were identified in the type 2 results. This means that more relevant results were found in searching the entire system whereas fewer relevant results were identified in searching the databases for the user's business community. However, in actuality, the type 2 search results may be the most relevant search results of the type 1 results, i.e., the type 2 results are a subset of the type 1 search results.

Figure 6 illustrates a further narrowing of the search results to be displayed from vector 1 to vector 2. Specifically, *the search results obtained by searching the database of the sub-business are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 6.*

In comparing the example search results in Figure 5 to the search results in Figure 6, 30 relevant communities and 41 relevant documents were identified in the type 2 results and 26 relevant communities and 35 relevant documents were identified in the type 3 results. This means that more relevant results were found in searching the business databases whereas fewer relevant results were identified in searching the databases for the user's sub-business. In actuality, the type 3 search results may be the most relevant search results of the type 2 results, i.e., the type 3 results are a subset of the type 2 search results.

Figure 7 illustrates an even further narrowing of the search results to the users customized communities. As explained above, these are the user selected communities in which the user may have a particular interest. The search results obtained by searching the databases of the customized communities are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 7.

In comparing the example search results in Figure 6 to the search results in Figure 7, 26 relevant communities and 35 relevant documents were identified in the type 3 results and 26 relevant communities and 35 relevant documents were identified in the type 4 results. This means that the same results were found in searching the sub-business databases as were identified in searching the databases for the user's customized communities. That is, the databases that are in the customized communities but not in the sub-business community did not have any relevant results. (Para. 0030-0036.) (Emphasis added.)

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the specification clearly describes how a user would narrow search results by selecting a location on a user interactive selection bar. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is fully disclosed in the specification and associated figures. Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the user may narrow search results using a selection bar having a location the user selects to narrow the search results from all results to a first subset of search results, and a location that the user selects to narrow the search results to a second subset of

search results that is narrower than the first subset of search results. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 10, 12, and 22 are patentable.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 2, 10, 12, and 22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,647,383 to August, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "August") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that August does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. For example, August does not describe or suggest a method for displaying search results that includes displaying on a computer search results from a performed search, wherein each search result was previously assigned to one or more business communities and one or more sub-business communities.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that August does not describe or suggest displaying a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool that enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on a business community associated with the user, a sub-business community associated with the user, and/or a customized business community associated with the user.

August describes a method of information searching. The method includes gathering data from searches performed by a plurality of users. The data is analyzed to determine which searches have been performed and what the users did with the search results. The data is also analyzed to determine a popular pick for each search. The popular pick is the last URL that has been reached as a result of a search. Because the popular pick is the last URL that the user visited as a result of the search, it is assumed that that URL was the goal of the user's search. Both the popular pick and the search are stored in a database, along with user data that enables search results to be personalized for the user, such as age, apparent level of education, context of the person (work, school, shopping), and/or language skills used in the search. A lexical analysis is also completed for the search terms in order to personalize the search results for the user according to context. The lexical analysis enables search results to be personalized according to the context of the search terms entered by the user. In addition,

the search results may be personalized for the user based on the user's communities of interest based on such data as age, address, education, clubs, interests, employer, family members, groups, church, language, etc.

Claim 1 recites a method for displaying search results using a computer, wherein the method includes "storing data files within a plurality of databases wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to . . . inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user . . . assigning the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data . . . assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community into the computer . . . prompting the user to enter search terms into the computer for performing a search for information . . . displaying on the computer search results from the plurality of databases, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith . . . displaying a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user, and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection."

August does not describe or suggest a method for displaying search results using a computer, as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, August does not describe or suggest a method that includes displaying on a computer search results from a performed search, wherein each search result was previously assigned to one or more business communities and

one or more sub-business communities. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest displaying a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool that enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on a business community associated with the user, a sub-business community associated with the user, and/or a customized business community associated with the user. Rather, August describes displaying search results to a user based on previous searches completed by the user as well as other users, based on contextual processing of the entered search terms, and/or based on communities of interest to which the user belongs, wherein the communities of interest are based on details such as the user's age, education, address, and interests.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over August.

Claims 2-7 and 24 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-7 and 24 likewise are patentable over August.

Claim 8 recites a computer comprising a user interface and a processor, wherein the processor is programmed to "store data files within at least one database wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, the at least one database is coupled to the computer, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to . . . receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user . . . assign the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data . . . assign the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community the user desires to be assigned to . . . prompt the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information . . . display on said user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith . . . display on said user interface a subset of the search results as a result

of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the user interface, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search result based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user, and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.”

August does not describe or suggest a computer, as is recited in Claim 8. More specifically, August does not describe or suggest a computer including a processor programmed to display on a user interface search results from a database, wherein each search result satisfies entered search terms, each search result includes one of a stored data file and an assigned business community identifier and sub-business community identifier. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest a processor programmed to display a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool that enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on a business community associated with the user, a sub-business community associated with the user, and/or a customized business community associated with the user. Rather, August describes displaying search results to a user based on previous searches completed by the user as well as other users, based on contextual processing of the entered search terms, and/or based on communities of interest to which the user belongs, wherein the communities of interest are based on details such as the user's age, education, address, and interests.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over August.

Claims 9-17 and 25 depend from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-17 and 25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9-17 and 25 likewise are patentable over August.

Claim 21 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for displaying search results on a user interface coupled to a computer, wherein the program includes a code segment that receives user data including at least one of an organization

associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user and then "stores data files within at least one database wherein each data file includes a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to . . . assigns the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data . . . assigns the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community that the user desires to be assigned to . . . prompts the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information . . . displays on the user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith . . . displays on the user interface a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a subset of the search results based on at least one of the business community assigned to the user, the sub-business community assigned to the user and the at least one customized business community assigned to the user and the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection."

August does not describe or suggest a computer program, as is recited in Claim 21. More specifically, August does not describe or suggest a computer program including a code segment that displays search results from a performed search, wherein each search result was previously assigned to one or more business communities and one or more sub-business communities. Moreover, August does not describe or suggest a code segment that displays a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool that enables the user to display the subset of the search results based on a business community associated with the user, a sub-business community associated with the user, and/or a customized business community associated with the user. Rather, August describes displaying search results to a user based on previous searches completed by the user as well as other users, based on

contextual processing of the entered search terms, and/or based on communities of interest to which the user belongs, wherein the communities of interest are based on details such as the user's age, education, address, and/or interests.

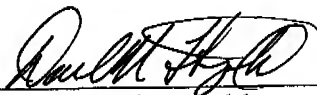
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over August.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22 and 23 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 22 and 23 likewise are patentable over August.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-25 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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